Rs. 10 lakhs to be taken from the Postwar Reconstruction Funds to be spent on village uplift during 1122. (Hear,hear) Rs. 10 lakhs more would therefore be spent on village uplift in addition to the income or interest from the one crore of rupees.

In order to see that public opinion is focussed on the manner and method of spending, the honourable members of this House will be requested to elect 3 members to serve on a committee for the purpose of dealing with the expenditure and the other honourable House will be asked to elect 2 members. In addition to these members a few members will be nominated by Government and it will be the duty of these members to deal with the question of allocation and expenditure of this Rs. 10 lakhs within this year. This is apart from the income from one crore of rupees already set apart.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai.

> "I beg leave to move for an adjournment of the business to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation arising from the labour strike at the Paper Mills Punalur.
>
> The labourers at Punalur Paper Mills have struck work and this is the sixth day of the strike. A serious situation has developed in consequence; hence this motion."

I am going to make a statement on this matter and I trust that as a result of that statement Mr. Chellappan Pillai may find it possible not to press for a debate on that matter now. The position in the State is one of some complexity. Definitely there is a move to organise strikes in every industry. On every occasion attempts are made to start a general strike throughout the State consequent on the difficulty in one industry. That I am not making that statement at random is clear from the papers which are before me. Mr.C.O. Mathew presided over a meeting of the Punalur Paper Mill workers on 25-7-46 attended by about 120 persons. In the course of his speech, he announced that the Executive Committee of the All-Travancore Estate Workers' Union has decided to observe sympathetic strikes if an amicable settlement is not made within a week regarding the, Paper Mill Labour dispute. The All Travancore Estate Workers Union deals with an agricultural organisation in Munnar and Peermade. The operations there will come to a standstill if the dispute in the Punalur Paper Mill is not settled within a week. He also criticised the attitude of the Mill management in asking some clerks to do a special item of work in the Mills usually attended to by ordinary coolies.

Then the Quilon Municipal scavengers, of whom 25 are against strike and 12 in favour, have met and decided to conduct a strike. They have said that it will be a general strike unless the scavengers' demands are satisfied. Then the Rubber Factory workers presided over by Mr. Parameswaran Pillai have decided to launch a general strike if the management does not redress their grievance.

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They have also decided that the labourers in the P. W. D. Workshop, the Laxshmi Textiles, Karamana, and the Sugars and Chemicals will also strike work, if the Rubber Factory dispute is not settled.

That is the exact position as it is developing; that is, if the demands of the labourers in a particular locality are not redressed, then, all the other labourers throughout the State will strike work on a large scale. Now, from what is taking place in British India, Bombay and Calcutta, it is easy to develop a general strike. In connection with this matter I have to make certain observations which I trust will be of some assistance.

I shall first deal with a recent speech made by Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister for Labour and Industries, Madras, when he laid the foundation stone for the Srinivas Mills Limited on the mill site on the outskirts of the City on the Thirupparankundram Road.

> "While I would like to defend the rights and privileges of the workers, namely, their right to work and their right to live, I would tell you of their obligations. Workers sometimes think that independence can be construed as licence. They have certain rights, but they have certain responsibilities as well."

The following words are very important.

> "In a country like ours, where industry is still in an infant stage of development, if workers did not realise their sense of responsibility, they can only thank themselves if foreign industry steals a march over them, and impending competition from any other country destroys their industry."

I cannot better the words of Mr. Giri who was once a labour leader in Madras. The point that I am anxious to enforce is this. At the present moment Government are face to face with a number of impending or threatened strikes. I am glad to announce that this morning I have received a telephone message which says that the strike in the Aluminium Factory, Alwaye, which was going on for some time, has come to an end and that agreement has been reached between the workers and the management. I may also inform you that because there was a strike in the Aluminium Factory, the match factory workers also struck work the day before yesterday and the tile factory workers have given notice of their intention to strike. The domestic workers of Quilon have given notice of a a strike. They are attending to their domestic work with badges showing their intention to strike work. Butlers and other people who are to work in European quarters are working with these badges indicating their intention to strike work. (*Laughter*)

The scavengers in Quilon are also threatening to strike. The position is this. Government have appointed a Labour Officer and Assistants for the Labour Officer. That Labour Officer has been charged with the duty of investigating all causes of complaints. Considering who the labour officers are—Mr. V. K. Velayudhan,

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Mr. Varghese and Mr. Krishna Pillai, all with considerable knowledge and experience of labour problems,—one might imagine that they would go into the matter with a certain amount of bias towards labour. I would therefore suggest to the honourable members of the House and to the public not to rush too much or too often into the question and think that every strike has got only one side to it and that there is not another side.

Supposing war orders necessitated temporary employment of certain men for specific periods. Take, for instance, the Aluminium Factory. During the war, aluminium was naturally very much in evidence. The factory had to take a number of temporary men. Naturally, when the war was over, those men had to be retrenched. That is the main point arising in the Postal strike, Telegraph strike, Railway strike, etc. What they think is that they should be retained although they are no longer needed on the termination of the war. That is a matter of fundamental importance and the question will have to be discussed very fully and careful arrangements arrived at. Nobody wants to throw people out of work. That is not the policy of the Government. But you cannot have practically every person employed for a temporary purpose being continued *ad infinitum*.

Then the other point is, supposing the management is, not making a profit. It may therefore retrench certain people. As a matter of fact, Government are now dealing with a problem in regard to a particular factory. The gentleman was in charge of the factory under a lease from the owner. In virtue of certain payments to be made, the lessee had to work the factory. He suffered loss and left the country. The factory is now closed. Now, labour in the factory that has been closed goes to the lessor and says that because he is the original owner, he must open the factory. They are threatening a sympathetic strike. That is the position this morning. In other words, workers whose factory has been closed, go to the original owner who had given the lease and ask him to restart that factory. No doubt, these people are now unemployed. It is of course a serious problem, but this is taking the matter too far. I do not want to give more particulars because they may handicap or make it difficult for settlements to take place. But as soon as these demands are satisfied, 12 more demands are made immediately. I am asking the honurable members to use their influence to see that the position is clarified. Government have made it clear where their sympathies lie. Where there is a conflict between capital and labour, the sympathies of the Government are more towards labour than towards capital. But at the same time quoting from Mr. Giri's words, it must be borne in mind that we are not only getting competition from outside the country but we are getting competition from Mysore and Madras. We must be able, in order to cope with this industrial programme, to compete successfully with an

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industrialising Madras. I take it that the Congress Government will industrialise Madras and will not merely rest upon handloom spinning and weaving, and an industrialising Mysore. The industries come here for three reasons. Firstly, labour is abundant. Secondly, it is cheaper here than in Madras. Thirdly, special facilities are given by Government. If any one of these, or all these elements are failing, there is no particular reason why new industries should be started in Travancore. Honourable members will kindly bear that in mind.

I shall then deal with the Punalur Paper Mills. This morning, Mr. Varghese, Assistant Labour Commissioner, has written to me thus: "I am herewith sending a copy of my report on the situation in the Punalur Paper Mills. I do so because I am told it is likely there will be an adjournment motion today regarding the matter." One of the points that the labourers have raised is that about the non-recognition of the union. The Manager said that he would not recognise the union, obviously because he does not like Mr. Mathew, the Labour Union President. Mr. Mathew wanted that the Union should be recognised. The Government have definitely stated that where there is a Labour Union properly framed according to Labour Laws, the fact that a person who is the head of the union is liked or not liked either by the Government or by the manager will not be the reason for recognising or not recognising the union. The union has been recognised. Practically, therefore, there is only one point to be settled, namely, whether the manager will accept the apology and agree to the reinstatement of two of the workmen. All the other points of difference have been settled according to Mr. Varghese, who has reported to me. If that is all the matter, it should be settled harmoniously between labour and the manager, without having an adjournment motion in this House. The point for the honourable member to consider is whether having regard to this question—I understand that a draft apology has been sent up by two workmen—the adjournment motion should be taken up. The question is whether the draft apology will be accepted by the manager. Mr. Varghese definitely says: 'In regard to the recognition of the union, they are thankful to Government for their recent order on the question and will await legislation.' Therefore there is only one point to be settled. It appears to be really not necessary for an adjournment motion to be discussed on the question.

MR K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In the hope that some settlement will take place and in the hope that Government would be always favouring labour in these disputes, I do not wish to press the motion.

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MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, ഈ സഭയിലെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അംഗങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ആദരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട്, തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യകൂടി അനുവദിക്കാമെന്ന തീരുമാനിച്ചതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള നന്ദി പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND NO. III.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move that this honourable House do grant to the P. W. Department a sum of Rs. 1,93,31,250 for expenditure during the year 1122 as detailed in the annexure attached to the Demand and in the Budget Memorandum.

In moving this, I wish to correct one or two impressions which I found have been formed in the minds of the honourable members, during the course of the questions that have been raised. Taking the question of post-war reconstruction works, a great deal has been said that little or nothing has been done. I just want to review the whole position so as to give the honourable members exactly what has happened and what is being done. A provision was made last year—Rs. 3,38,000, for an aerodrome at Kazhakuttam. An aerodrome at Trivandrum is being constructed instead and over Rs. 4 lakhs have been spent on it. For investigation for improving the tanks in Kodayar Project a provision of Rs. 2,22,560 was made. Over 70 works have been sanctioned. Quite a number of them are in progress although the outlay is not satisfactory. Payment has not yet been made. For augmenting the improvement of irrigation tanks in south Travancore, the Perunchani scheme was started on the basis of information that was available with the Public Works Department at the time and a great deal of spadework has been done in this direction. We had to obtain a lot of equipment, but all the equipment have not been readily available. Even then with hand labour, most of the right flank foundation has been excavated down to rock and the rock itself is being tested with calyx drills for soundness. For the Pechipara reservoir, there are seven Earthen dams which have all been strengthened. The main dam itself has been drilled and quite a number of holes have been grouted to prevent leakages; and a certain portion of earth bund in rear of it has also been made up.

In the matter of investigation on National Highways, we have started from the northern end and come down to Trivandrum. A little more has to be finished. In the matter of irrigation, we are at

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